

do that. We are getting the same calls you are.

But I say to my friend, we would be willing to take time agreements on these amendments. I am certain we could finish the amendments in one good, long day. We would take time agreements on these amendments.

On tax bills that have traditionally been brought up in the Senate, we have not had any restrictions on them. We will agree to have some restrictions, but we think this would be appropriate.

We will be happy to have our staffs work on this during the break, and as soon as we get back, the two leaders can again talk about this. We do want to bring up the estate taxes.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I may respond to that, just briefly.

After the good work that has been done, in a bipartisan way, this past week, and after having participated in the effort that was just made to complete action on the military construction appropriations conference report, it has restored my faith that anything is possible in the Senate. I hope we can continue to work to find a way to resolve this and get it considered other than through the cloture process. I am going to hold out hope until the very last minute that we can get that done.

So we will continue to work. Our staffs have been exchanging proposals, and we will continue to do that right up until the time we need to begin voting, which would be, I guess, Tuesday or Wednesday of the week we return.

Under my reservation, I yield to the Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the majority leader very much. I assure him, as a member of the Finance Committee, we definitely plan to take up some form of estate tax reform. I don't know what version it would be, but clearly that has to pass this year.

In addition, however, I do believe there is one other matter that is even more important than estate tax reform, and that is PNTR for China. It far transcends appropriations bills, marriage penalty relief, bankruptcy reform. Getting PNTR passed in July, I think, is of such urgency and is so important that I am constrained to object to any unanimous consent request that sets the schedule for July unless it also includes a time when we are going to take up PNTR. I know the leader knows that is my view. I just hope that in working with the leader, we can work out some accommodation to reach that objective.

MOTION TO PROCEED—H.R. 8

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in light of the objections—and I do object—I now move to proceed to H.R. 8 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 608, H.R. 8, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period:

Trent Lott, Bill Roth, Charles Grassley, Larry E. Craig, Chuck Hagel, Jeff Sessions, Pete Domenici, Strom Thurmond, Jon Kyl, Thad Cochran, Jim Bunning, Craig Thomas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Susan M. Collins, Don Nickles, and Wayne Allard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur on Tuesday, July 11. I will notify all Members as to the time of the vote. In the meantime, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would say there is a strong possibility we may not need a vote on this motion to proceed.

Mr. LOTT. If I may respond, I hope we can work through that. I thought maybe that would be the case. I want to say, again, I am still hoping we can come to an agreement to have some limited number of amendments that would be offered. Then we would be able to vitiate this whole thing.

In view of the time in July, I felt I needed to go ahead and get the process moving. And we still would have that option right up until Tuesday when we come back.

Mr. REID. Under my reservation, Mr. President, I also say we have worked very closely with Senator BAUCUS and Senator MOYNIHAN in trying to come up with an alternative, and some other matters that we believe should be brought up with this piece of legislation.

For example, in 1992, under a tax bill that came before the Senate, we, on the 25th, started considering that. We had 105 amendments, and a day and a half later it was all done. That legislation was totally passed. We had a number of amendments that were even offered by our majority leader on that important legislation. There was a wide range of amendments offered dealing with dental schools, tractors, and all kinds of things.

So we can work out a way through this. I think the proposal by the minority that we take up six amendments, with time limits, is something the majority leader should take another look at.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 10, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 10, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125. I further ask that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that then the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4578.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. LOTT. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 3:30 p.m. today for the submission of statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, on Monday, July 10, the Senate will begin consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. We will be looking forward to having the Presiding Officer on the floor managing that important legislation. I am sure it will move expeditiously. Opening statements will be made and amendments will be offered during the day. Senators who intend to offer amendments are encouraged to contact the bill managers during the recess in preparation for consideration of the bill. Senators should be aware that the next rollcall vote will occur on Monday, July 10, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125, following the remarks of Senators BYRD, WARNER, and LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Before our distinguished leader departs the floor—momentarily I will propound a unanimous consent request which takes us another